

# The Bromley All-Age Autism Strategy



# AUTISM

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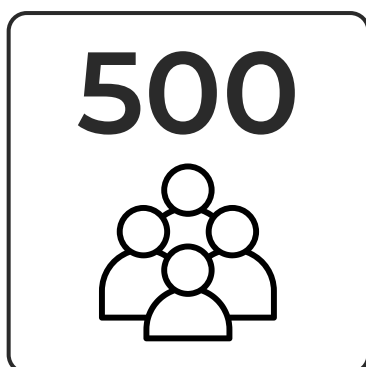
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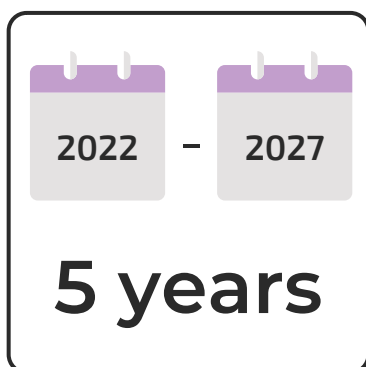
# Introduction



This strategy was written by the Bromley All-Age Autism Board.



More than 500 people who have autism, their families and professionals helped to write it.



It was published in 2022 and lasts for five years - it ends in 2027.



We want to improve support for people who have Autism who live or work in the borough and their families.

We want people who have Autism to:



- Learn well at school



- Find a job



- Enjoy their life

# Understanding autism



Autism makes parts of our brain work in a different way from other people.

Autism describes differences in:

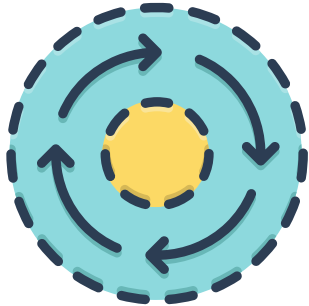


- Getting on with people



- Talking and listening to people





- Needing things to stay the same



- The way our senses (the way we hear, taste and feel) work and differences in the things we might be interested in



People sometimes use other names to mean Autism, for example 'Asperger Syndrome' and 'Autism Spectrum Disorder'.



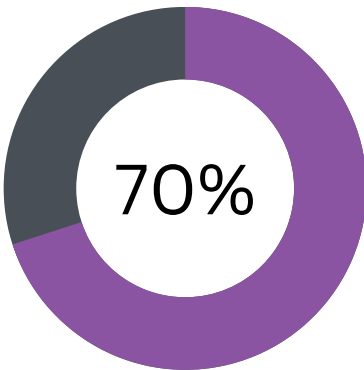
People sometimes describe Autism as a 'Neurodevelopmental condition' or 'Neurodiversity'.

1 in  
100

One in 100 people have Autism.



Boys and men are more likely to receive a diagnosis than girls and women.



70% of people who have Autism also have an another condition or experience, for example:

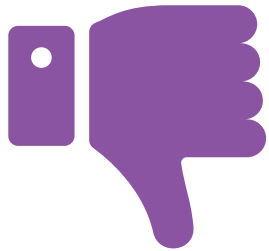
- Mental health conditions







- Emotional health



- Negative life experiences



- Lower quality of life



Not all people who have Autism will have a diagnosis from a doctor.

# The borough of Bromley



333,000 people live in Bromley.

**6,000**



We think that there are 6,000 people who have Autism in Bromley:

**700**

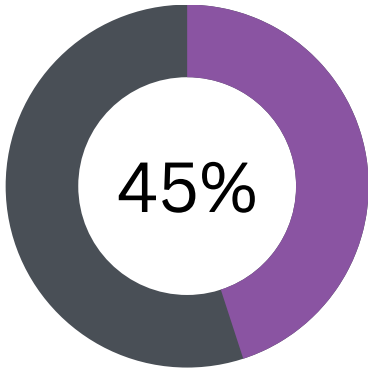


- 700 are children (aged from birth to 15 years old)

**5,300**



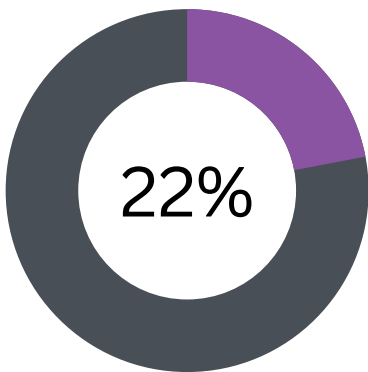
- 5,300 are adults (aged 16 and over)



**45% of children who have extra help at school have Autism.**



**The Council's Adult Social Care Service help 300 adults who have Autism.**



**In England, only 22% of adults who have Autism have a job.**

# What we are doing

We want to:



- Make sure people who have Autism can use all services in their community



- Make sure people who have Autism are supported by specialist services



- Better identify the needs of people who have Autism

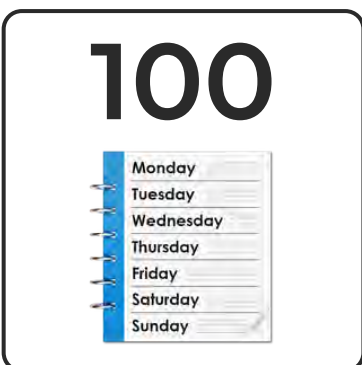


- Improve the **physical and mental health** of people who have Autism



- Better understand the differences people who have Autism experience in their life

We have:



- Held the 100-day Bromley Autism challenge



- Asked adults and children who have Autism about their thoughts and ideas



- Set up the Bromley All-Age Autism Board partnership



- Started to use information from the national Autism Education Trust (AET)



- Set up the Social Communication Needs Family Support Service provided by -

- Bromley Children Project
- Bromley Mencap





- Set up the Autism Champions Development Network



- Created the Bromley Autism Promise



# Our vision and priorities



We want people who have Autism to live happily in their community - with support available when they need it.



We have five priorities:



- Increase awareness and understanding of Autism



- Support for children and adults who have Autism in education



- Supporting people who have Autism to live independently and have a job



- Improve the physical and mental health of people who have Autism



- Make sure that people who have Autism can get the support they need when they need it

## Priority 1



This priority will help us to increase awareness and understanding of Autism.



We will increase understanding and awareness of Autism.

We will do this by:



- Providing more training about Autism and Neurodiversity



- Asking more organisations to agree to our Bromley Autism Promise



We will help people with Autism to understand Autism.

We will do this by:



- Helping them to understand what things can help them in their life



We will help people find support and services.

We will do this by:



- Making information easier to find and use



We will increase training for our staff.

We will do this by:



- Providing training, support, advice and guidance



- Helping every teacher to be a teacher of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



We will encourage services to make better adaptations and adjustments.

We will do this by:



- Asking more people to become part of our Autism Champion network

## Priority 2



This priority will help us to support children and adults who have Autism in education.



We will increase understanding and awareness of Autism for staff in education.

We will do this by:

- Training professionals using the Autism Education Trust (AET) training programmes







We will help children with undiagnosed Autism.

We will do this by:

- Offering training from our new Autism free school



We will make better use of things that can help people with Autism.

We will do this by:

- Training school leaders to provide better adjustments for pupils who have Autism





We will support children with Autism as they become adults.

We will do this by:

- Using more person-centred planning tools



- Improving our Preparing for Adulthood pathway



## Priority 3



This priority will support people who have Autism to live independently and have a job.



We will help people with Autism to live independently.

We will do this by:



- Promoting local services and community organisations



- Improving information that is available



We will give better advice for adults with Autism to find and stay in a job.

We will do this by:



- Helping more people with Autism to start volunteering, apprenticeships, supported internships and graduate schemes



- Sharing ideas from organisations who successfully support employees with Autism



- Giving better advice to adults who have Autism to stay in a job



We will encourage businesses to make better adaptations and adjustments.

We will do this by:

- Providing more training for local businesses to help them understand Autism



## Priority 4



This priority will help us to reduce health and care differences for people with Autism.



We will encourage health and care services to make better adaptations and adjustments for appointments.

We will do this by:



- Helping organisations consider whether they need to -



- change the way they provide their services





- change the buildings and rooms that people with Autism use



- change the information that they provide to people with Autism



We will improve how people are diagnosed with Autism.

We will do this by:



- Reducing waiting times for local services





- Developing services to help people who are waiting for an assessment



We will support children with Autism and mental health difficulties.

We will do this by:



- Improving mental health services for people who have Autism

## Priority 5



This priority will help us to provide the right support at the right time.



We will understand the strengths of people with autism when we provide support to them.

We will do this by:

- Helping people with Autism to identify their skills, strengths and their needs





We will help our staff provide support in consistent ways.

We will do this by:



- Supporting people with Autism as quickly as possible



- Providing good short break services



We will encourage people with Autism and their families to influence how our support is provided.

We will do this by:



- Having conversations with people with Autism and their families to hear about their experiences



- Keeping the Bromley All-Age Autism Board's action plan up to date and shared on the Council website

# More information



To learn more about support and help for people who have Autism in Bromley, visit the Bromley Local Offer website:



[bromley.gov.uk/localoffer](https://bromley.gov.uk/localoffer)

Children's Services  
London Borough of Bromley  
Civic Centre, Stockwell Close  
Bromley BR1 3UH

[bromley.gov.uk/localoffer](https://bromley.gov.uk/localoffer)

